

November 14, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
455 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Southwest  
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to express our concern about and disapproval of the proposals and tentative conclusions set forth in the FCC's September 25 Further Notice of Proposed Rule Making in *Implementation of Section 621(a)(1) of the Cable Communications Policy Act of 1984 as Amended by the Cable Television Consumer Protection and Competition Act of 1992*, MB Docket 05- 311.

I currently run the P.E.G. access station in Watertown. MA. We serve 34,000 residence. We cover a minimum of seven(7) meetings a month on average two hours each. The community has asked us repeatedly to cover these meetings and we do, ninety percent (90%) are carried live the others are rebroadcast the next day.

We don't just carry the municipal meetings and public meetings. Our education channel has original programming produced in our studio by Watertown high school students, who are able to get hands on experience. These students produce programming from start to finish. They create documentaries, talk shows and local student news. On top of that we carry the high school sports, parents and grand parents have thanked us. They are so happy to see their students events especially those who have to work and cannot be there to watch them played live.

Lastly, but certainly not least, is our public channel. Here we have one producer who has produced over 100 shows. He has an oral history project that dates back to 2005 when our station first opened. He interviews veterans over the years he has interviewed servicemen and women from WWI, WWII, Korean conflict and Vietnam. This show is shared and carried on public access channels across the country. Another volunteer is a local artist that has also been on our channel producing since 2005. We have newer producers that showcase other non profits. The list goes on, from library and senior center lectures and consumer awareness programs. The people and community in Watertown rely on Watertown Cable Access to keep them informed about what is happening in their community. Watertown is 8 miles west of Boston and the only time the town makes the news is when there is a tragedy. They turn to us, to find out the results of last night's soccer game or to find out about the new dedicated bus lanes, bike lanes or construction projects. This is exactly what was intended by the 1984 cable act. To say that this is not would be a disservice to people of Watertown and the communities through out the country.

We have worked on projects with the Boys and Girls club of Watertown, the Rotary, the chamber of commerce and the Children's Theater of Watertown, the Education Foundation and

others to spread the word about events, to showcase and high light events or even to inform the community about upcoming events or projects.

This local presence enables the residents of our Watertown, Massachusetts to watch uniquely local programming about their community and local events and issues of interest to them. And that was the intent of the PEG provisions of the 1984 Cable Act – to enhance local voices, serve local community needs and interests, and strengthen our local democracy. By defining “franchise fee” in an overly broad fashion to include “in-kind” support, the FCC’s proposals will shift the fair balance between cable franchising authorities and cable operators and will force communities to choose between franchise fees and PEG channels, – something that was never the intent of the Act.

We appreciate your consideration and hope you will protect PEG channels in our community and others by choosing not to adopt many of the proposals in the Further Notice.

Sincerely,  
Helen Chatel  
Executive Director  
Watertown cable access Corp

CC: The Honorable Michael O’Rielly, Commissioner  
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner  
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner